

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 23, through page 3, line 3, as follows:

According to the invention, this problem is solved by the fact that the surface electrodes of the functional element and their leads are matched to one another and spaced spatially with respect to one another in such a way that its darkening starts at one edge of the functional element and, with a ~~remaining~~ continuously applied voltage applied between the surface electrodes, propagates continuously over the area of the element until it is completely and uniformly colored as regards the glazing and by the fact that the surface electrodes are produced with different surface resistance elements from which the propagation of a potential in the surface of these surface electrodes proceeds at different rates for any one voltage level, and in that an effective electrical potential is introduced into one of the surface electrodes relative to the other surface electrode, forcing the electrochromic change of color on one side of the electrochromic surface element so as to control one direction of propagation of the change of color of the electrochromic surface element.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 7, through page 13, line 4, as follows:

If, as mentioned here, the coating 4 completely covers the entire surface of the glazing, the wire lead 19/20 - or instead of this also a wider connection band similar to the connection band 12 - may in principle also be placed at the bottom side of the glazing 1, again in the surface covered by the frame 3 outside the field of view of the glazing 1, as indicated by the dot-dash lines 20' in figure 1. However, the response behavior of the EC element 2 during lightening may thus be delayed more strongly, relative to the application of the switching voltages, than in the case of the embodiment indicated in solid lines because,

because of the ~~not insignificant~~ significant surface resistance of the coating 4, even when the potential is applied to the coating, the supply voltage can increase only slowly through the EC layer. The figure shows that, near the top right corner of the laminated glazing 1, three electrical leads 13, 17 and 19 are grouped very closely together, whereas the electrical lead 15 is placed in the top left corner. Of course, it is possible for the leads of the same polarity, 13 and 15, to be connected directly together by providing, preferably, in the surface region or the lateral band covered with the opaque frame 3, parallel to the connection band 12, a line for direct connection between them. However, this line must be electrically isolated from that surface region of the coating 4 which is located between the side bands 6 and 8. For example, a flat cable could be provided for this purpose, which cable includes (at least) an electrically conducting track on a nonconducting (plastic) support. All in all, it is necessary to bring together, at one place, all the external leads for the EC element (and possibly for other electrical functional elements of the glazing 1) and to bring them into contact with the electrical circuit of the vehicle or with an electronic control unit, where necessary using a multiple connector or a multiple soldered lead.